

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PaC403042PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/FR2004/001431	International filing date (day/month/year) 09.06.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 11.06.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
Applicant SAINT-GOBAIN VETROTEX FRANCE S.A.		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/001431

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 1-8 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 nos. 1-8 as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/001431

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																									
<p>1. Statement</p> <table> <tr> <td>Novelty (N)</td> <td>Claims</td> <td>2, 3, 6</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Claims</td> <td>1, 4, 5, 7, 8</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inventive step (IS)</td> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-8</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Industrial applicability (IA)</td> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-8</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>			Novelty (N)	Claims	2, 3, 6	YES		Claims	1, 4, 5, 7, 8	NO	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-8	YES		Claims		NO	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-8	YES		Claims		NO
Novelty (N)	Claims	2, 3, 6	YES																							
	Claims	1, 4, 5, 7, 8	NO																							
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-8	YES																							
	Claims		NO																							
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-8	YES																							
	Claims		NO																							
<p>2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)</p> <p>Reference is made to the following documents in the present notification:</p> <p>D1: US-A-4 199 364 (NEELY HOMER E) 22 April 1980 (1980-04-22)</p> <p>D2: US 2001/011058 A1 (TAMURA SHINICHI) 2 August 2001 (2001-08-02)</p> <p>The present application fails to comply with the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) since the subject matter of claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 does not meet the requirement of novelty defined in PCT Article 33(2).</p> <p>The present application fails to comply with the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) since the subject matter of claims 2, 3 and 6 does not involve an inventive step as defined in PCT Article 33(3).</p> <p>The applicant has argued that the glass fibres according to prior art document D1 necessarily have a lithia content (column 3, Table IV; Example 5) whereas those according to the claims, and claims 1 and 8 in particular, are explicitly devoid of lithia. However,</p>																										

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

nothing in the wording of these claims indicates any such restriction. Furthermore, since the composition is defined simply as "essentially including" the components mentioned, this does not rule out the presence of additional components, including lithia.

Document D2 refers to heat-resistant glass fibres for making an acoustic material suitable for use in motor vehicle exhaust pipes or mufflers. The material is generally in the form of mutually entangled fibres as in a felt or mat, which fibres are produced in a rotary device comprising circumferential perforations through which the molten glass is expelled centrifugally in the form of fibres. A gas flow stretches the fibres into non-continuous filaments at the outlet of the device. However, the fibres as per the claims are reinforced fibres obtained, as a general rule, by forming a continuous yarn by combining mechanically stretched filaments flowing from a die filled with molten glass. This means that the materials described in document D2 are too dissimilar to the ones claimed for a person skilled in the art to be able to arrive at the present invention on the basis of the teachings of said document.

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